

WE CLAIM:

1. A vehicle soft top having a main body and a removable panel, said panel having a plurality of sides defining a perimeter shape and said main body having a cutout section to at least partially receive said panel, said cutout section being defined by at least first and second sides in said main body substantially conforming in shape to at least first and second sides of said panel,

said panel and said main body being removably securable to each other along respective first sides by at least two slidably interconnecting members and being removably securable to each other along respective second sides by a zipper, each interconnecting member having a stem portion and a hook portion, one of said interconnecting members being attached to the main body of the vehicle soft top along the first side thereof with the stem portion and hook portion being elongated in a direction along said first side, another of said interconnecting members being attached to said panel along the first side thereof with the stem portion and hook portion being elongated in a direction along said first side, said hook portion of said panel being slidably receivable with the hook portion of said main body wherein the hook portion of said panel can be aligned in an overlapping manner with the hook portion of said main body and slid relative thereto along the first side of said main body to secure said first sides together and said zipper operated to secure said second sides together.

2. The vehicle soft top of claim 1 wherein said panel and said cutout section of said main body have respective third sides and said soft top

5 further includes a zipper to removably secure said third sides together.

3. The vehicle soft top of claim 2 wherein said second and third sides of said panel are substantially parallel to each other and said second and third sides of the cutout section of said main body are substantially parallel to each other.

4. The vehicle soft top of claim 3 wherein the first sides of the panel and main body are respectively substantially perpendicular to the second and third sides thereof.

5. The vehicle soft top of claim 4 wherein the first sides of the cutout section of said main body extends substantially horizontally along an axis and said second and third sides thereof extend substantially vertically downwardly of said axis.

6. The vehicle soft top of claim 2 wherein said panel and said cutout section of said main body have respective fourth sides and said vehicle soft top further includes a zipper to removably secure said fourth sides together.

7. The vehicle soft top of claim 1 wherein said soft top is mountable on a vehicle having a substantially vertically extending door frame section and said panel has a third side removably securable to said door frame section.

8. The vehicle soft top of claim 7 wherein said vehicle has an open channel member extending substantially vertically along said door frame section and said panel has an elongated belt member

5 attached along said third side and removably
receivable in said channel member.

9. The vehicle soft top of claim 7 wherein
said vehicle has a body portion with a substantially
horizontally extending section and said panel has a
fourth side removably securable to said horizontally
5 extending section.

10. The vehicle soft top of claim 9 wherein
said vehicle has an open channel member extending
substantially horizontally along said horizontally
extending section and said panel has an elongated
5 belt member attached along said fourth side and
removably receivable in said channel member

11. The vehicle soft top of claim 1 wherein
said soft top is mountable on a vehicle having a
body portion with a substantially horizontally
extending section and said panel has another side
5 removably securable to said horizontally extending
section.

12. The vehicle soft top of claim 11 wherein
said vehicle has an open channel member extending
substantially horizontally along said horizontally
extending section and said panel has an elongated
5 belt member attached along said another side and
removably receivable in said channel member.

13. The vehicle soft top of claim 1 wherein
the first side of the cutout section of said main
body extends substantially horizontally along an
axis and said second side thereof extends
5 substantially downwardly of said axis.

14. The vehicle soft top of claim 1 wherein the stem portion and hook portion of the interconnecting member attached to said main body depends downwardly from the first side of said main body with said hook portion opening upwardly.

15. The vehicle soft top of claim 14 wherein the stem portion and hook portion of the interconnecting member attached to the panel extend upwardly from the first side of said panel with said hook portion opening downwardly.

16. The vehicle soft top of claim 1 wherein the elongated hook portions of said interconnecting members respectively extend along axes and said axes are substantially collinear with the hook portions overlapping one another to secure said first sides of said panel and main body together.

17. The vehicle soft top of claim 16 wherein said hook portions interlock with one another to prevent disengagement of the first sides of said panel and main body from each other in a direction substantially perpendicular to said axes.

18. The vehicle soft top of claim 16 wherein said hook portions are releasable from one another in a direction substantially perpendicular to said axes.

19. The vehicle soft top of claim 1 wherein said panel is flexible and can be collapsed to a position adjacent the first side of the cutout section of said main body with the hook portions overlapping one another to secure said first sides of said panel and main body together.

20. The vehicle soft top of claim 19 further including a tie arrangement to secure said panel in said position adjacent the first side of the cutout section of said main body.

21. The vehicle soft top of claim 1 wherein said interconnecting members are substantially identical in shape to each other.

22. A vehicle soft top having a main body and a removable panel, said panel having a plurality of sides defining a perimeter shape and said main body having a cutout section to at least partially receive said panel, said cutout section being defined by at least first and second sides in said main body substantially conforming in shape to at least first and second sides of said panel,

said panel and said main body being removably securable to each other along respective first sides by at least two overlapping, mating members and being removably securable to each other along respective second sides by a zipper, each mating member having a stem portion and a hook portion, one of said mating members being attached to the main body of the vehicle soft top along the first side thereof with the stem portion and hook portion being elongated in a direction along said first side, another of said mating members being attached to said panel along the first side thereof with the stem portion and hook portion being elongated in a direction along said first side, said hook portion of said panel being receivable in the hook portion of said main body in an overlapping manner to secure said first sides together and said zipper operated to secure said second sides together.

23. The vehicle soft top of claim 22 wherein said mating members are substantially identical in shape to one each other.

24. The vehicle soft top of claim 22 wherein the stem portion and hook portion of the mating member attached to said main body depends downwardly from the first side of said main body with said hook
5 portion opening upwardly

25. The vehicle soft top of claim 24 wherein the stem portion and hook portion of the mating member attached to the panel extend upwardly from the first side of said panel with said hook portion
5 opening downwardly.

26. The vehicle soft top of claim 22 wherein the elongated hook portions of said mating members respectively extend along axes and said axes are substantially collinear with the hook portions
5 overlapping one another to secure said first sides of said panel and main body together.

27. The vehicle soft top of claim 26 wherein said hook portions interlock with one another to prevent disengagement of the first sides of said panel and main body from each other in a direction
5 substantially perpendicular to said axes.

28. The vehicle soft top of claim 26 wherein said hook portions are releasable from one another in a direction substantially perpendicular to said axes.

29. The vehicle soft top of claim 22 wherein the first side of the cutout section of said main body extends substantially horizontally along an

axis and said second side thereof extends
5 substantially downwardly of said axis.

30. The vehicle soft top of claim 22 wherein
said panel and said cutout section of said main body
have respective third sides and said soft top
further includes a zipper to removably secure said
5 third sides together.

31. The vehicle soft top of claim 22 wherein
said soft top is mountable on a vehicle and said
panel has another side removably securable to said
vehicle.

32. The vehicle soft top of claim 31 wherein
said vehicle has an elongated, open channel member
and said panel has an elongated belt member attached
along said another side and removably receivable in
5 said channel member.

33. In a vehicle soft top with a main body and
a panel, a method of removably securing said panel
to said main body using at least two interconnecting
members with respective stem and hook portions
5 attached along respective first sides of said panel
and a cutout section of said main body and at least
one zipper between second sides of said panel and
said cutout section of said main body, said method
including:

10 (a) aligning ends of the hook portions in a
overlapping manner,

(b) sliding the hook portion attached to said
panel relative to the hook portion attached to said
main body to a first position securing said first
15 sides of said panel and main body together, and

(c) operating said zipper to secure said second
sides of said panel and main body together.

34. The method of claim 33 further including providing a zipper between third sides of said panel and cutout section of said main body and operating said zipper to secure said third sides together.

35. The method of claim 34 further including aligning said second and third sides of said panel in a substantially parallel relationship and said first sides thereof substantially perpendicular thereto.

5

36. The method of claim 33 further including mounting said soft top on a vehicle and securing said panel along another side thereof to said vehicle.

37. The method of claim 36 further including securing said another side of said panel to said vehicle using an elongated, open channel member on said vehicle and an elongated belt member attached along said another side of said panel and removably receivable in said channel member.

5